

REMARKS

Amendments

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant has amended claims 10, 15, 17 and 57 to include limitations similar to those in claims 1, 9, 18 and 19. Claims 12, 13 and 58 that depend from claims 10 and 57 have been amended to agree with the amendments to the independent claims. Claims 7, 15 and 60 have been amended to conform to the description of the invention in the specification. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Objections

Objections to the Specification under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

The Examiner objected to the specification as failing to adequately teach a claimed limitation in claim 60. Applicant has amended claim 60 to conform to the specification as filed and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection to the specification under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Rejections

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claim 60

Claim 60 stands rejected under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 60 as amended complies with the first paragraph of § 112 and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 10-15, 17 and 57-63

Claims 10-15, 17 and 57-63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Hira et al. (U.S. Patent 4,954,948) in view of Frankel. Because independent claims 10, 15, 17 and 57 have been amended to include limitations similar to those in independent claims 1, 9, 18 and 19 that the Examiner stated are not disclosed in Hira or Frankel, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10-15, 17 and 57-63 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Hira and Frankel.

Non-Statutory Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1-4, 6-19 and 56-63

Claims 1-4, 6-19 and 56-63 stand rejected as claiming an obvious variation of the invention of claims 2-5 of U.S. Patent No. 5,448,735 in view of Frankel et al. (U.S. Patent 5,283,900). Applicant will submit an appropriate terminal disclaimer when the allowability of pending claims 10-15, 17 and 57-63 claims is determined.

SUMMARY

Claims 1-4, 6-19 and 56-63 are currently pending. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Sue Holloway at (408) 720-3476.

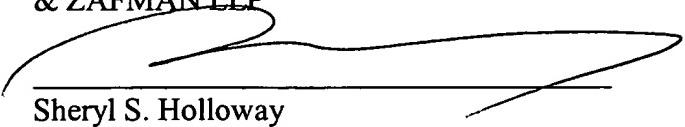
Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR
& ZAFMAN LLP

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Sheryl S. Holloway
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 37,850

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-3476